

Barnett Ranch Open Space Preserve



Area-Specific Management Directives and Fire Management Plan



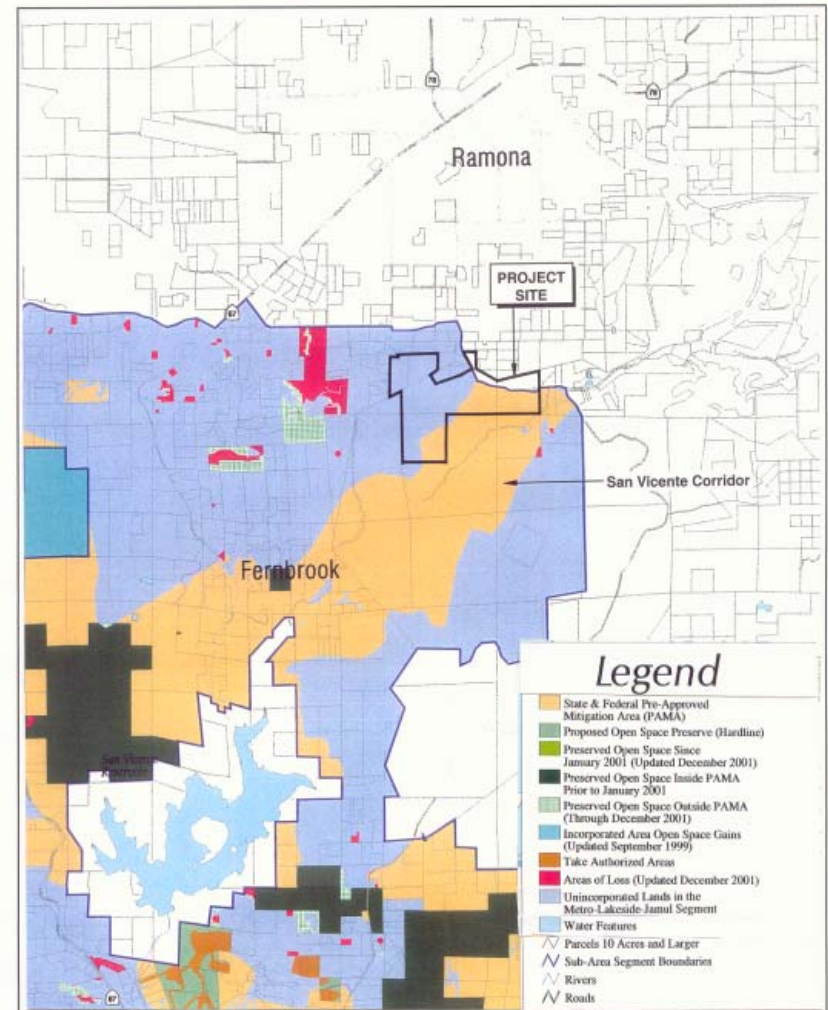
Project Team

- HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.
- Center for Natural Lands Management
- Tierra Data, Inc.
- Firewise 2000, Inc.
- Affinis
- Envira

Site Introduction

● Location

● MSCP Status



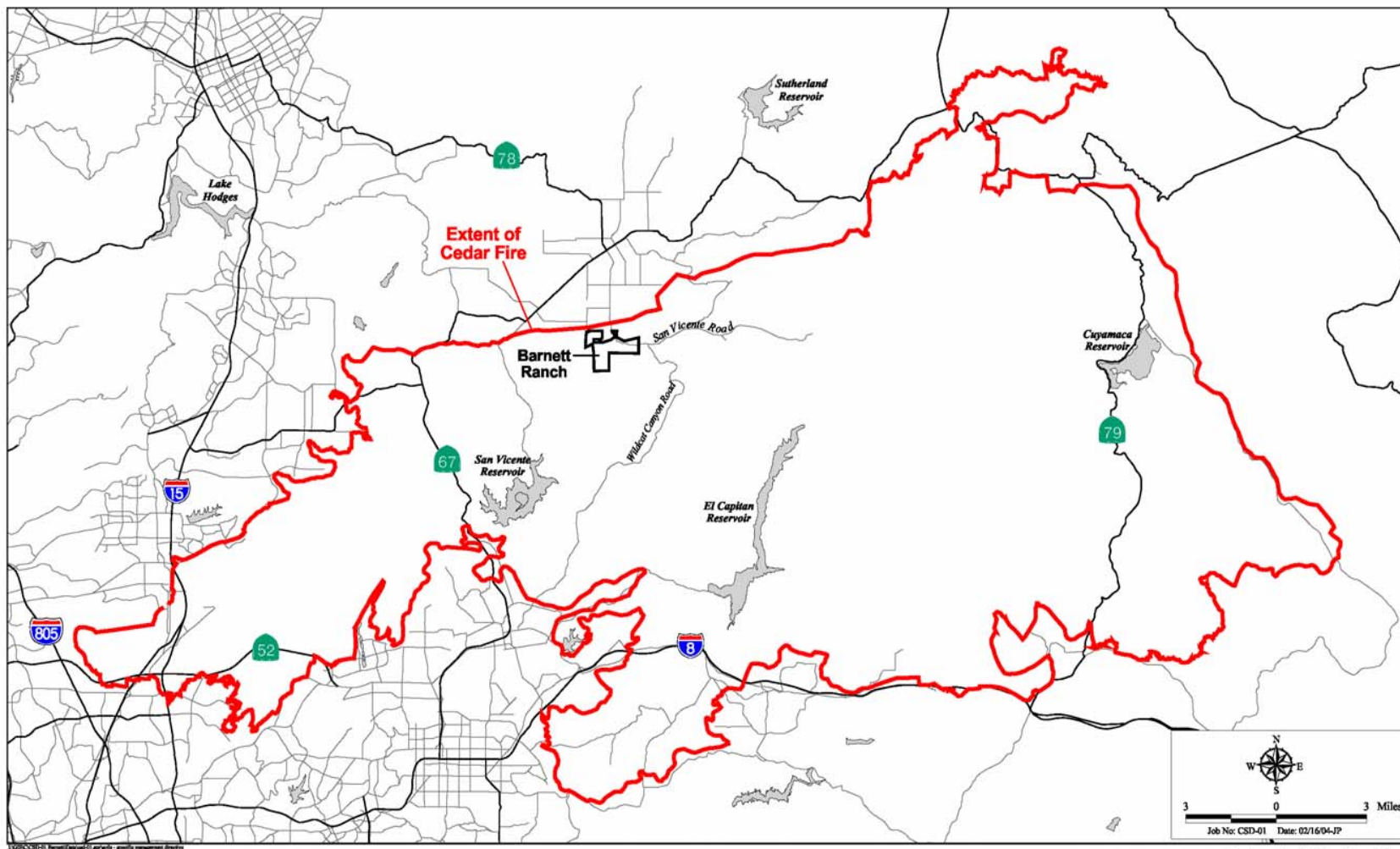
San Vicente Corridor
BARNETT RANCH AREA - SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVES

Figure 5



History

- Site grazed and farmed for > 100 years
- Major subdivision proposed in late 1990's
- County acquired 728 acres in 2002 for MSCP
- Site burned in Cedar Fire, October 26, 2003



Extent of Cedar Fire

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Before.....and after



Project Status

- All baseline studies and field work are completed
- Draft copies of all documents have been submitted to County for review and comment:
 - Biological Resources Report
 - Archeological Report
 - ASMDs
 - FMP

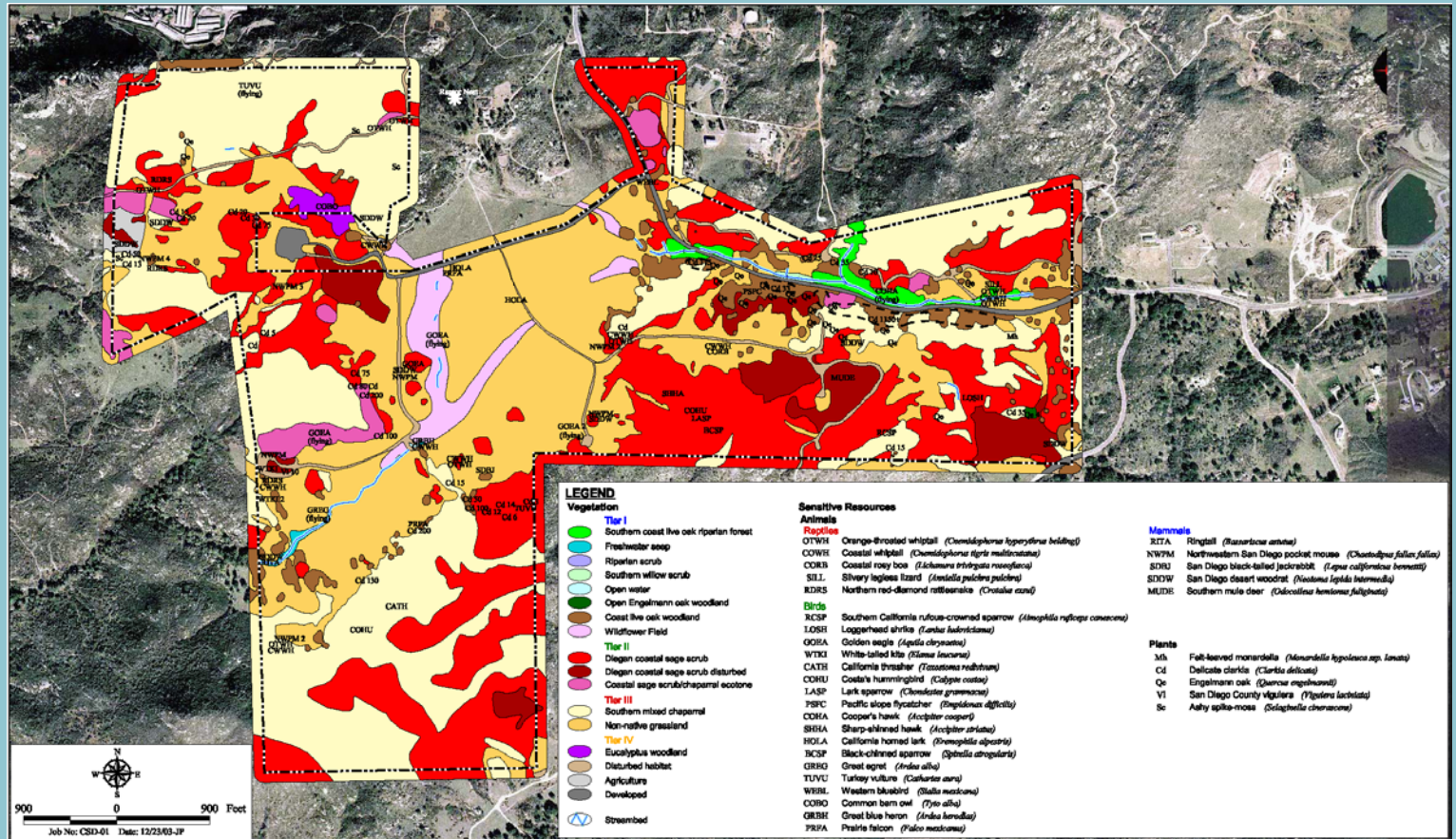
Baseline Studies

- Vegetation mapping
- Rare plant surveys
- Coastal California gnatcatcher surveys
- Quino checkerspot butterfly surveys
- Herp arrays
- Small mammal trapping and tracking
- Bird counts

Vegetation Acreages

Vegetation Communities	Acres
Tier I	
Wetlands and Riparian habitats	9.8
Oak woodlands	29.4
Wildflower field	15.9
Tier II	
Coastal sage scrub	231.0
Tier III	
Southern mixed chaparral	211.2
Grassland	205.7
Tier IV	
Other	24.7
TOTAL	727.8

Vegetation Communities and Sensitive Resources



Vegetation and Sensitive Resources

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES REPORT FOR THE BARNETT RANCH OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

Sensitive Plants

● FSC, CNPS 1B, MSCP Covered

- felt-leaved monardella (*Monardella hypoleuca* ssp. *lanata*)

● CNPS 1B

- delicate clarkia (*Clarkia delicata*)

● CNPS List 4

- San Diego County viguiera (*Viguiera laciniata*)
- Engelmann oak (*Quercus englemannii*)

● County sensitive

- ashy-spike moss (*Selaginella cinerascens*)

Felt-leaved monardella



Delicate clarkia



Sensitive Animals

☼ Reptiles

- orange-throated whiptail, coastal rosy boa, silvery legless lizard, northern red-diamond rattlesnake

☼ Birds

- southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, loggerhead shrike, California thrasher, white-tailed kite, golden eagle, Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, California horned lark, prairie falcon, western bluebird

☼ Mammals

- ringtail, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse, San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit, southern mule deer

Biological Resources Summary

🌀 Barnett Ranch supports:

- Diversity of habitats and resources for wildlife
- Protection to San Vicente Corridor to south
- Large population of delicate clarkia
- Foraging area for a golden eagle pair and other raptors

🌀 Major biological issue:

- Years of grazing and farming have produced a grassland with a limited native seed bank that is infested with filaree (*Erodium* spp.)

Area Specific Management Directives

Management Plan Concepts

- Complies with County's MSCP Framework Management Plan, requirements for ASMDs and Conditions of Coverage
- Adaptive management framework
- Options based on funding availability
- Matrix identifies specific management tasks

Habitat Recovery



- Monitor to observe conditions
- Adapt responses based on results
- Control invasive species
- Establish experimental restoration plots if funding permits
- Recommended seed mix of native grasses and forbs

Sensitive Species

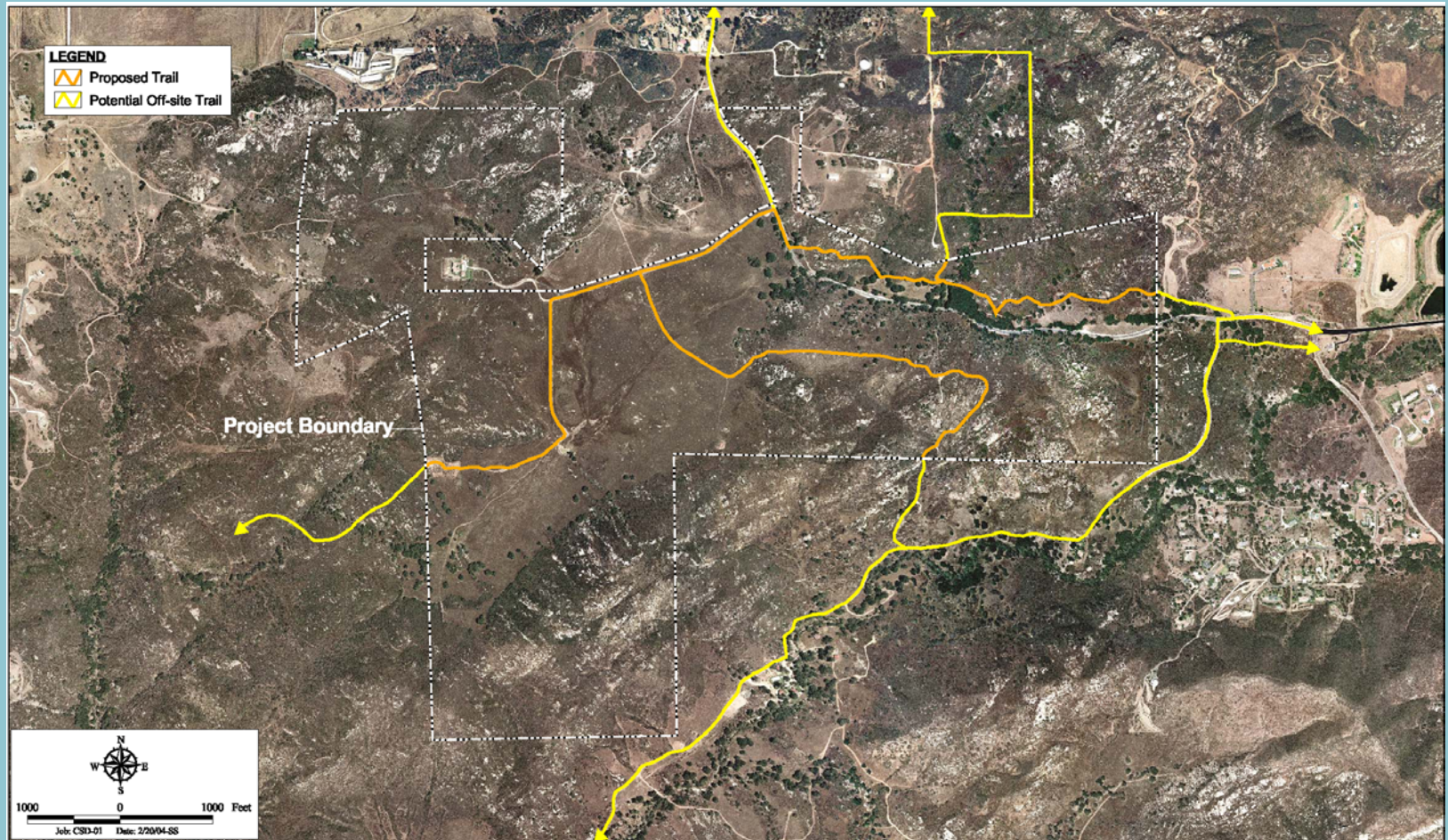
- Primarily rely on natural recovery
- Management action if necessary
- Manage for open habitat condition
- Introductions not currently recommended

Public Access

Trail locations

-  Existing dirt roads
-  Potential for two small spur trails

Trails Map



Proposed Public Access

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Figure 10

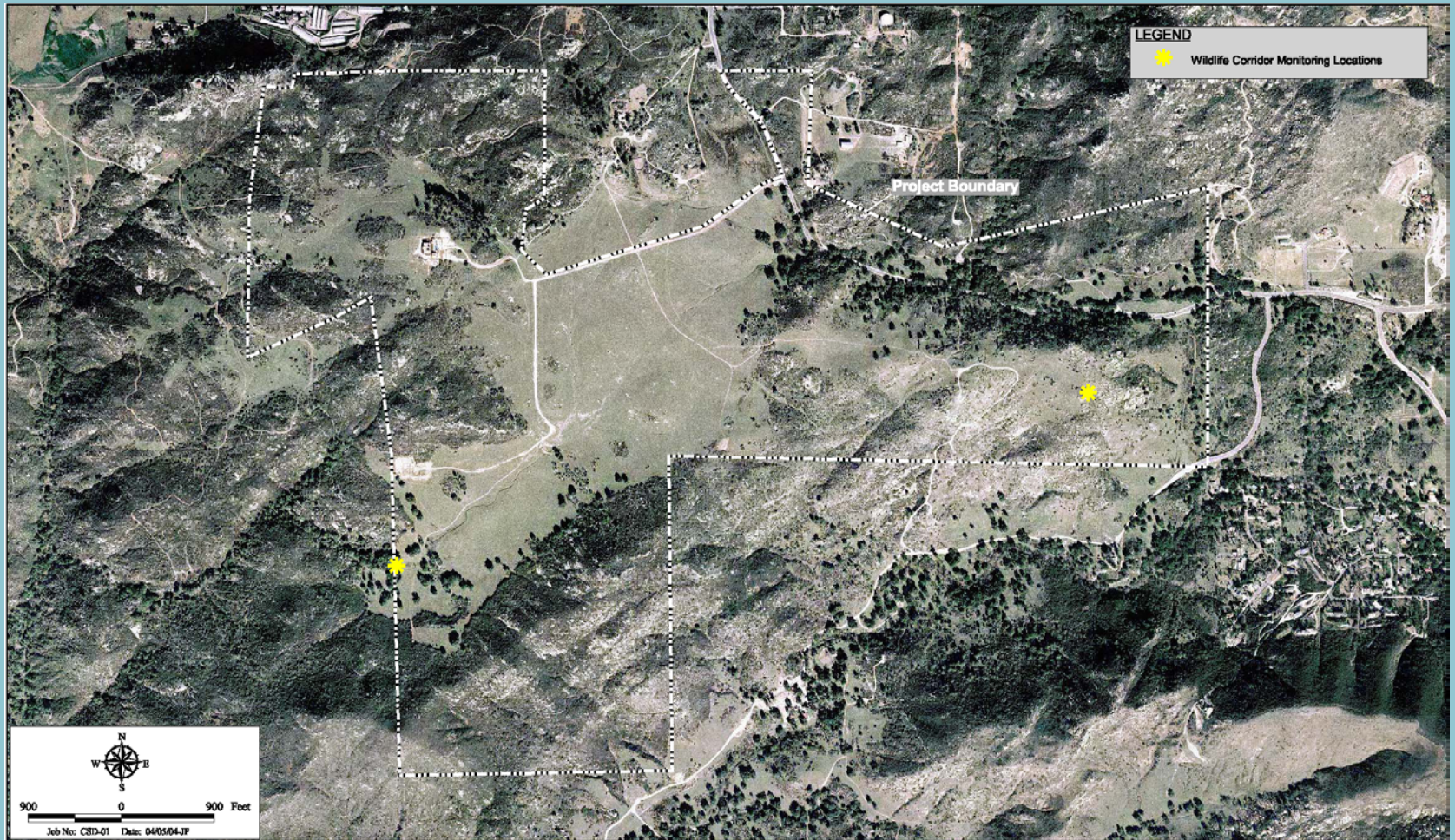
Public Access

- Trail locations
- Allowed uses—equestrian, bicycle, hikers
- Measures to protect sensitive resources
 - Barriers
 - Seasonal trail closures
 - Post-rain event closures
 - Education
 - Monitoring/Patrols

Habitat Monitoring

- Not an MSCP monitoring location
- Recommendations for expanded monitoring if funding is available or researchers/students express interest
- Establish minimum protocols for vegetation and species
- Wildlife corridor monitoring

Corridor Monitoring Locations



Wildlife Corridor Monitoring Locations

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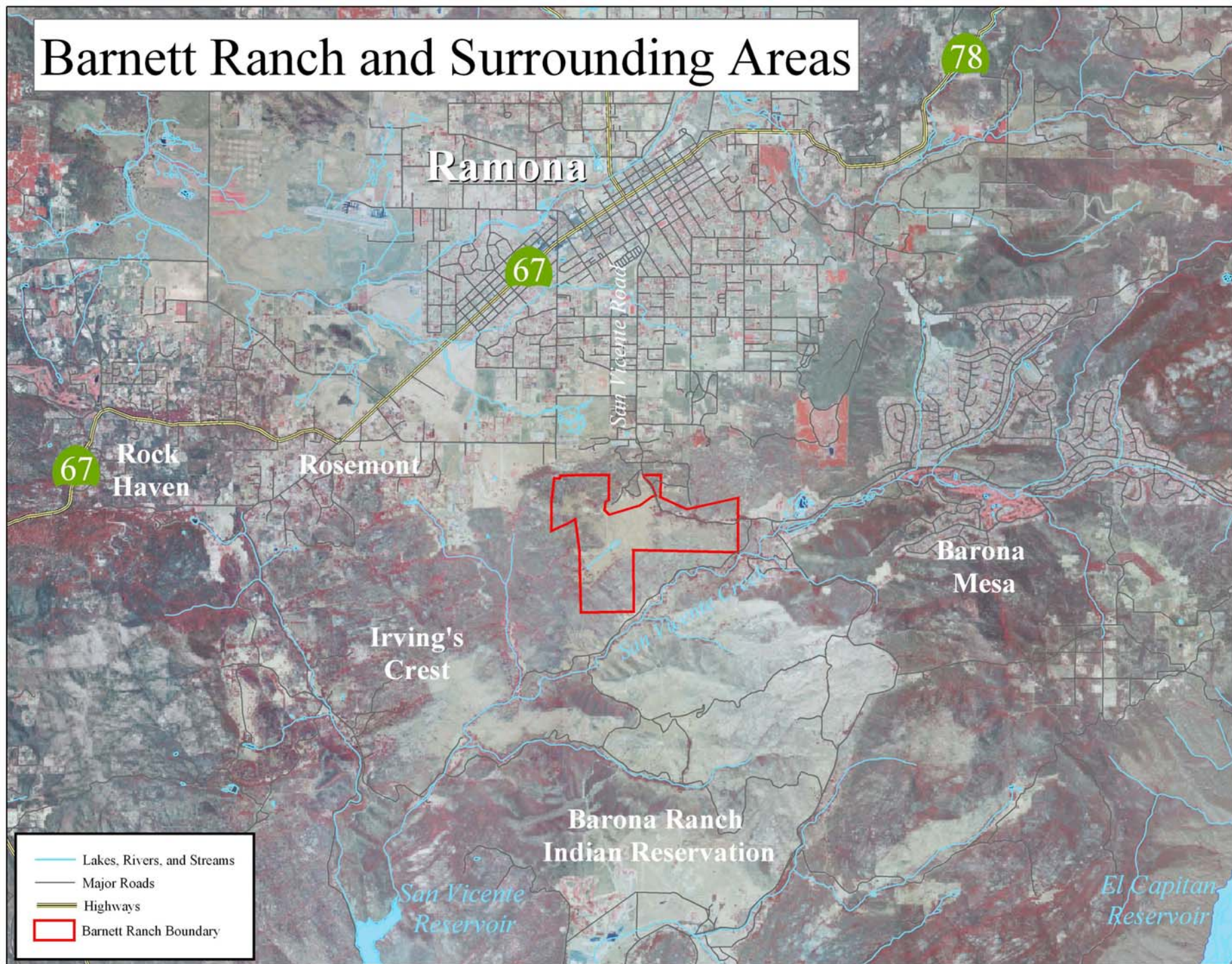
Figure 11

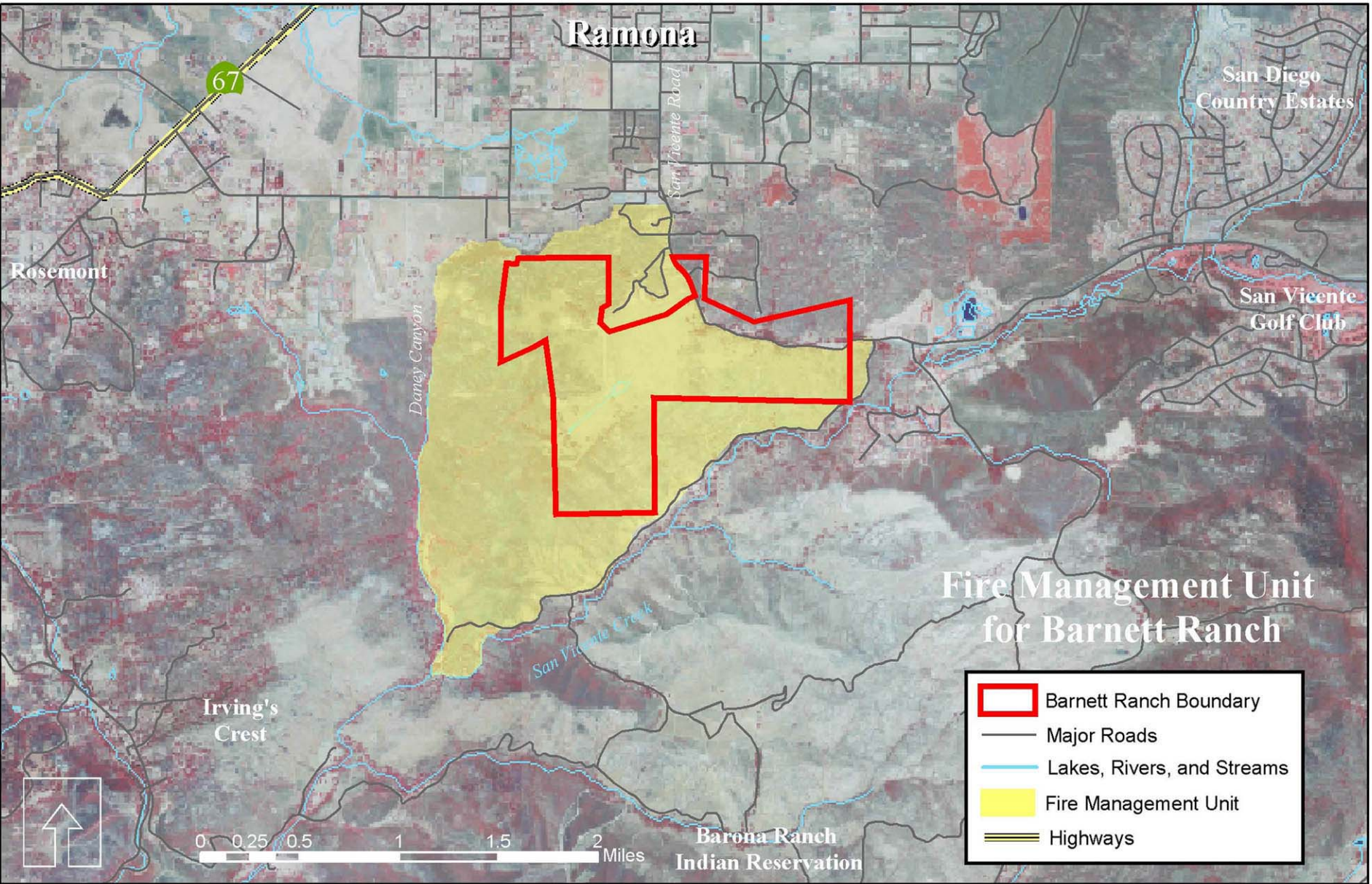
Fire Management Plan

Fire Management Considerations

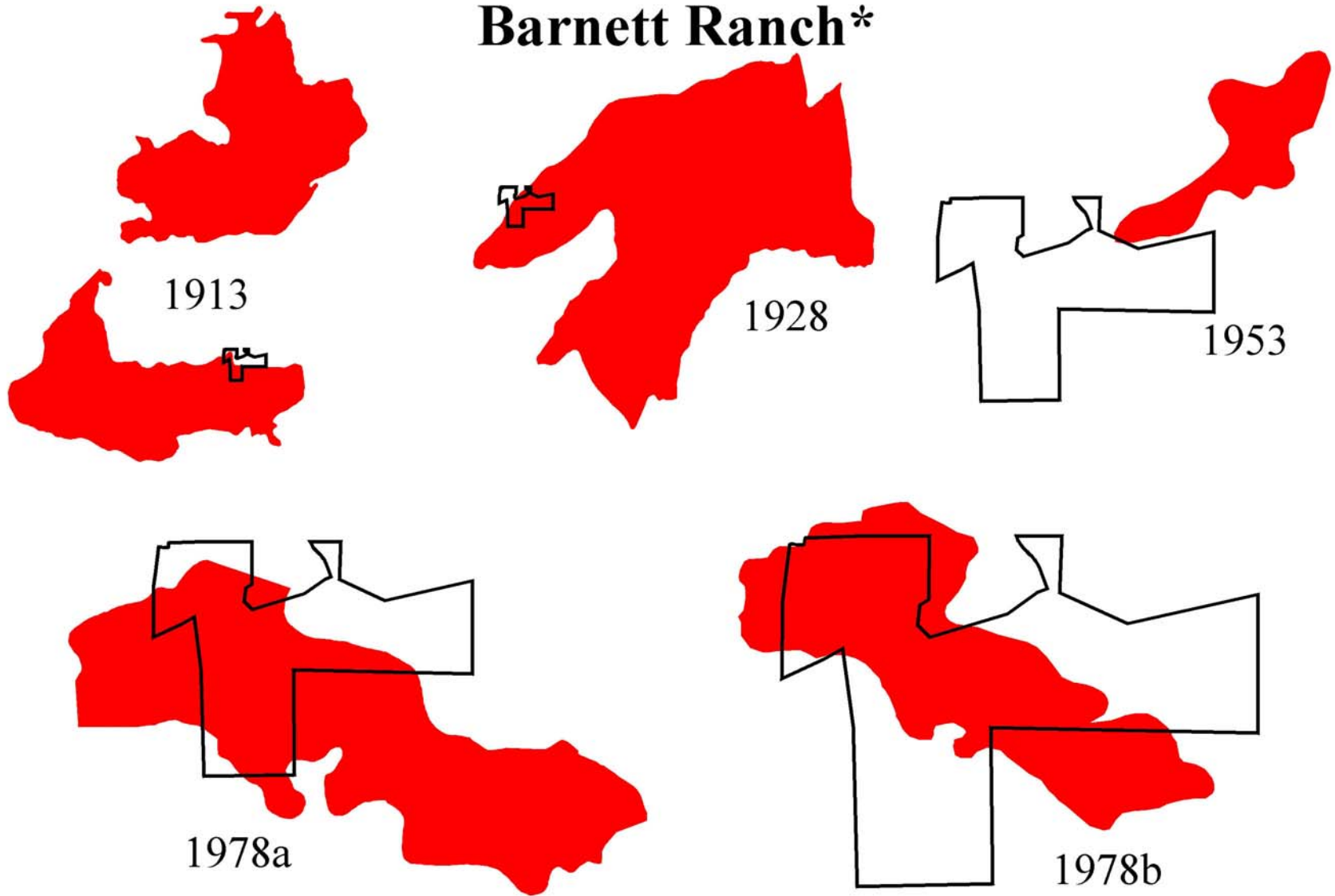
- Property too small for fire management unit
- Wildland-urban interface (“mosaic”)
- Some short-interval fire history, 15-75 years
- Open vegetation condition supports target MSCP species
- Contribute to ASMDs, restoration needs
- National Fire Plan guidelines, CDF SRA

Barnett Ranch and Surrounding Areas





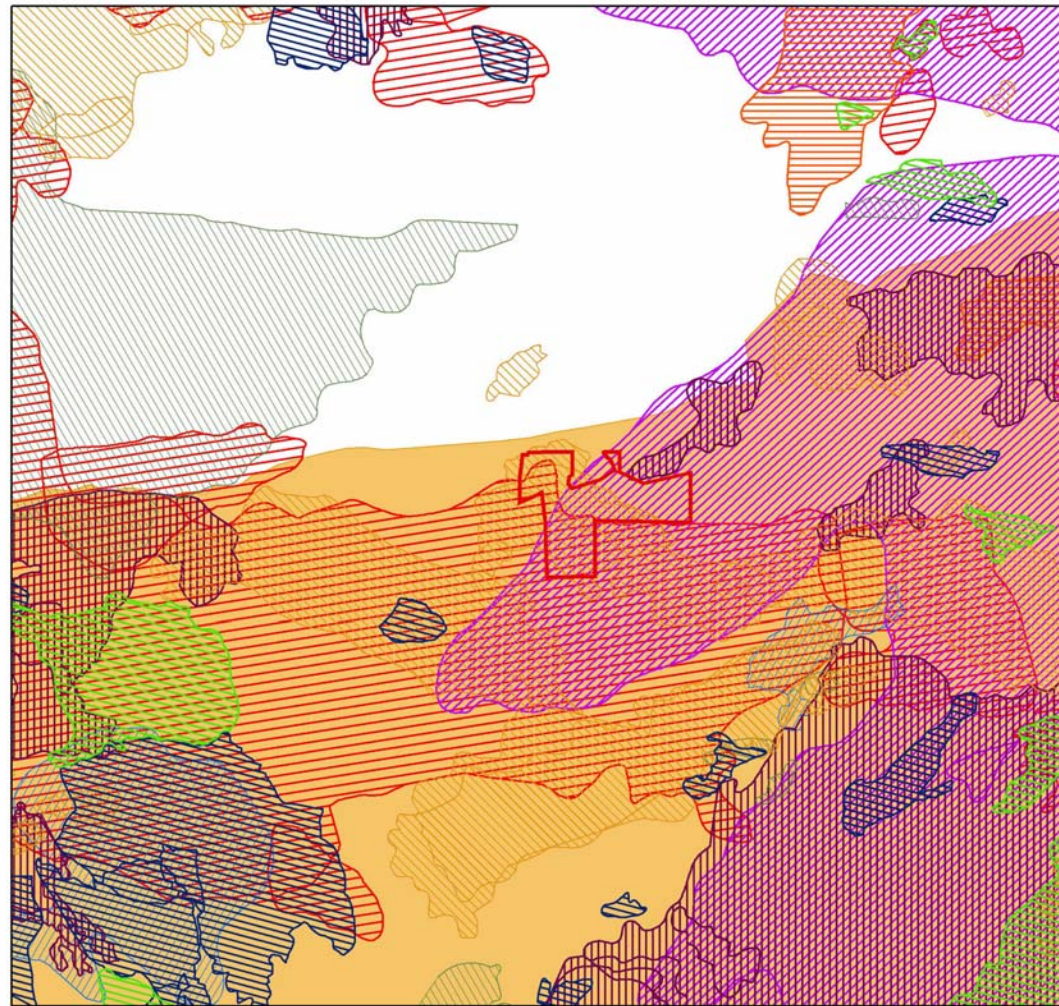
20th Century Fires on Barnett Ranch*



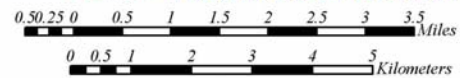
**Data is through 1997. Barnett Ranch is 1.75 miles wide, and covers an area of 716.5 acres.*

Barnett Ranch Fire History*

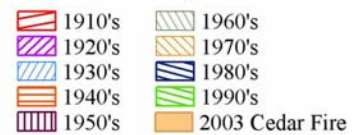
**Including the 2003 Cedar fire*



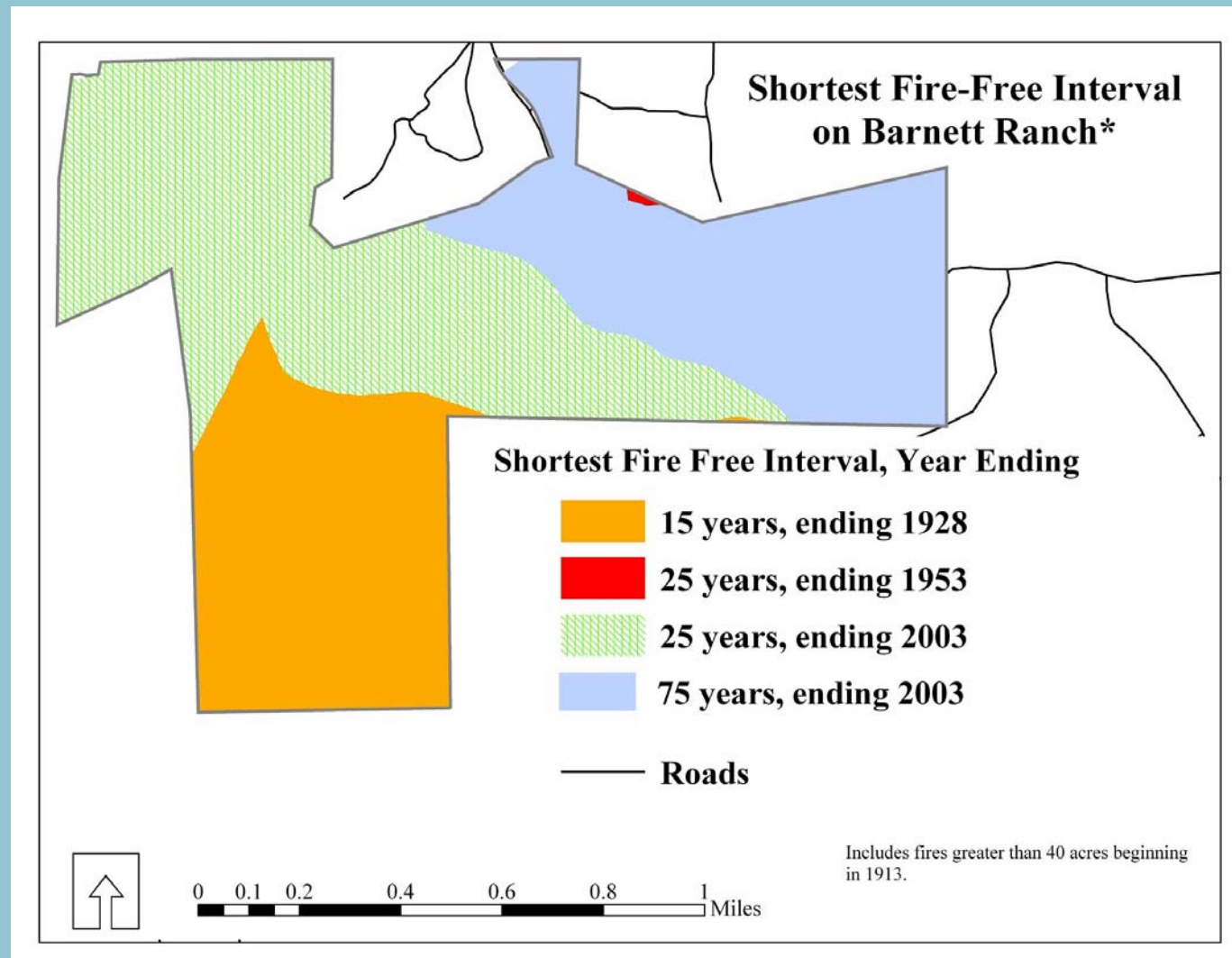
 Barnett Ranch boundary



Fire Occurrence By Decade



Fire-Free Interval



Soil profile disturbance...



Fire severity...







Fire Management Objectives

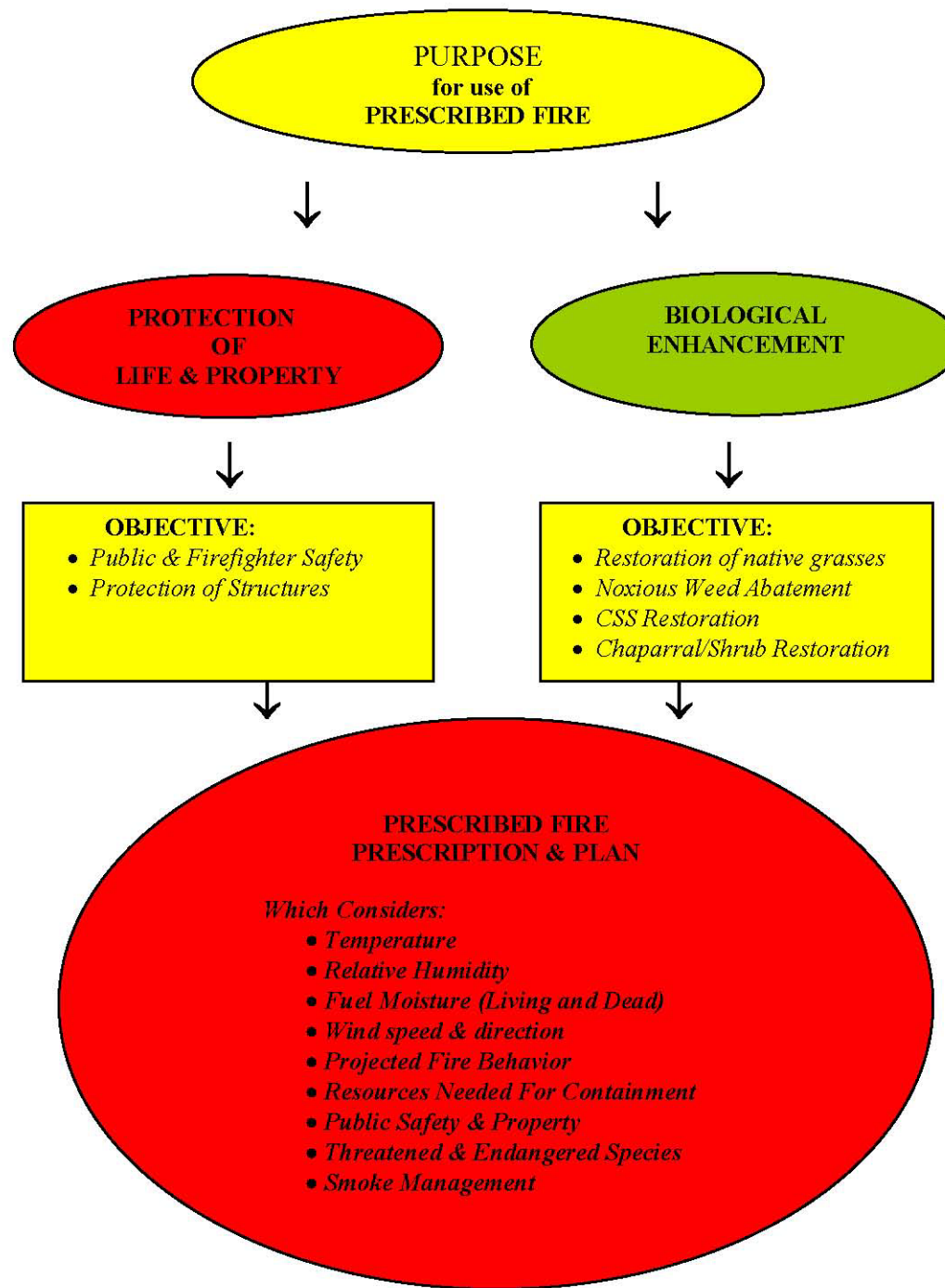
- Life and property protection...managed fuel loads
- Maintain resilience of communities and increase MSCP species.
- Increase fire return intervals in shrublands / woodlands
- Intermediate disturbance condition for diversity
- Others....

Community Age Minimum Targets

- Oak woodlands--30 years and open understory
- Riparian--45 years
- Chaparral--30 years, open condition
- Coastal sage scrub--20 years, open condition
- Grassland--3 years; raptor foraging and native composition
- Lowlands adjacent to drainage--15 years

Fire Management Actions

- Post warning signs
- Annual fuel modification, San Vicente Road
- Fuelbreak possibility
- FDRS for managing activity/public access under Extreme hazard condition
- Aggressive Initial Attack
- Fuels Management
- Continue to coordinate with CDF



Tactical Plan

- Aggressive attack only
- Continue to coordinate with CDF on habitat values consistently for all habitat reserve lands... Communication procedures provided
- Annual preparedness meetings
- Tactical guidelines for backfiring, off-road activity, bulldozers, mop-up, rehabilitation
- Adaptive management













